(ख) क्या इस बात को सुनिश्चित करने हेतु अलग से कोई नियम और कानून है कि राहत कार्यों हेतु जो सामग्री एकत्र की जाती है वह आपदाग्रस्त क्षेत्रों तक पहुंचे और पीड़ित व्यक्तियों को प्राप्त हो; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या इन कानूनों को कार्यान्वित किया जा रहा है?

खाद्य मंत्री और नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव): (क) से (ग) कृषि और सहकारिता विभाग, कृषि मंत्रालय से प्राप्त सूचना के अनुसार उन्हें आंध्र प्रदेश में तूफान राहत के लिए मिली सामग्री के दुरूपयोग के बारे में एक शिकायत प्राप्त हुई है। प्राकृतिक आपदाओं की स्थिति में राहत तथा पुनर्वास उपाय संबंधित राज्य सरकार द्वारा अपने राज्य राहत मैनुअल में दिए गए प्रावधानों के आधार पर किए जाते हैं।

Huge Margin of Profit of Retailers on Maximum Retail Price Quoted Items

874. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL:
SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the mixmum retail price of commodities are marked on the packets under the provisions of the Act;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the maximum retail price so quoted is more than 30% to 50% of the sale price by the retailers and a huge margin is left to the retailers; and

(c) if so, whether Government have made any effort to study this problem and propose to amend the existing provisions of the Act in order to save the consumers being looted by the retailers selling the goods at the maximum retail price of the commodities?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) The Packaged Commodities Rules, 1977 require that retail sale price of a commodity sold in packaged form be printed thereon in the following format; "Maximum or Max. retail price.... inclusive of all taxes or in the form MRP Rs....incl. of all takes."

(b) and (c) MRP is the maximum price at which the product can be sold. The actual sale price could be less than MRP due to various factors.

No information regarding very large margins accruing to retailers has come to the notice of the Government. The Government is however considering the issue in consultation with concerned groups and organisations with a view to serve better the interests of consumers.

Rejection of New Rice Supply Policy by Government of Andhra Pradesh

875. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has rejected the new rice supply scheme proposed by the Union Government through public distribution system;

(b) if so, the reasons advanced by that Government; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b and (c) Do not arise.

Enhancing the Foodgrains Quota to Orissa

876. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Orissa has requested to provide adequate quantum of foodgrains under Public Distribution System network to meet the additional requirement of foodgrains in view of the serious drought situation prevailing in that State;

(b) if so, the estimated requirement and demand made by the State compared to the requirement in the normal situation;

(c) the steps taken to enhance the allocation of foodgrains to meet the requirement; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (d) The State Government of Orissa had requested in October, 1996 for increase in allocation of rice from 75,000 MTs to 1,00,000 MTs and wheat from 35,000 MTs to 50,000 MTs per month to cope with the situation arising out of the drought and price to cope with the situation arising out of the drought and price hike in the open market. The total monthly allocation of foodgrains was increased to 1,33,000 MTs (rice 1,00,000 MTs and wheat 33,000 MTs) for December, 1996; 1,40,000 MTs (rice 1,00,000 MTs and wheat 40,000 MTs) for January 1997 and 1,50,000 MTs (rice 1,00,000 MTs and wheat 50,000 MTs) for February and March, 1997.

The quantity of rice and wheat lifted by the State government has, however, been much less than the quantity allotted.

Cases Registered under Consumer Protection Act by People from Rural Areas

877. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement of the President of National Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum (NCDRF) to the effect that women in villages are the real consumers who should be benefited from Consumer Protection Act and Government's audio visual media should concentrate on it, which appeared in the Times of India dated the 21st December 1996;

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard; and

(c) the number of cases registered under this Act as on 15th February 1997 which have been filed by Consumers belonging to the rural areas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Department of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution System is having regular programmes on consumer awareness which are especially prepared keeping in view the consumers of rural areas including women. During the year 1996-97, with the cooperation of Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Department brought out seven booklets intended for use in adult education programmes, containing topics for women and rural masses. The Department also publishes a magazine "Upabhokta Jagaran" on consumer protection which is sent to consumer organisations all over the country. With a view to taking care of the special problems of women consumers, the Consumer Protection Rules, 1987 provide for a representation of not less than 10 women in the Central Consumer Protection Council. Voluntary Consumer Associations are also helped financially to conduct Consumer Awarness Camps through Consumer Welfare Fund.

(c) The details regarding the number of cases registered under this Act are not maintained by the conumer courts on the basis of urban and rural areas. As per the latest available information, total number of cases registered in various District fora since their inception were 7,66,571.

Revamped PDS for People below Poverty Line

878. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI: SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the six crore families living below poverty line who will benefit by the revamped PDS by getting foodgrains at half the PDS prices;

(b) if so, the State-wise break up of such families;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;